

any taxes. Well, it goes back to the many advantages the wealthy have in influencing the outcomes. Those realms of liars, those platoons of lobbyists, those media campaigns, that dark money, and now the effort to block the ballot box, that is how afraid the powerful are that the voice of the people will say: Invest in American families rather than tax breaks for billionaires. Tackle healthcare and housing and education. Create living-wage jobs rather than new tax cuts for the already wealthy and influential.

What we have is a battle between the powerful and privileged holding onto their lever of power, trembling at the idea that American voters can get to the polls and determine to block it. They are afraid that, if voters can get to the polls, they might elect people who are fighting for Main Street rather than Wall Street. They are afraid they might invest—those elected individuals—in quality, affordable healthcare—and healthcare should be a right, not a privilege—that we might invest in housing because there is a tremendous housing shortage across America and that we might invest in education because education is the path to success in our complex society.

So how do we address this? We pass S. 1, the For the People Act. We do it by following the example of men and women who sat in this Chamber half a century ago and used their power to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act to give every American a full opportunity to vote.

Once again, this more than half a century later, we are called upon to fight to defend our Constitution, to defend the “we the people” vision and ensure that every American can freely and fairly cast a ballot.

This bill sets out basic national standards for how elections are conducted in accordance with the constitutional power specifically stated for Congress to be able to so set such standards to ensure that every American has equal freedom to vote, equal opportunity regardless of who they are, the color of their skin, or where they live. It ensures this access by protecting vote-by-mail, early voting, and fairness on ballot drop boxes.

Why are early voting and vote-by-mail so scary to the powerful? Here is why. On election day, there are so many ways to stop people from voting. First of all, you reduce the number of precincts in the communities you don’t want to vote, so there are fewer places to vote. Then you put them in places where there is no parking. That makes it harder. Then you reduce the number of precinct workers in those locations, so there are really long lines. You have heard about those lines—3 hours, 4 hours, 5 hours, 6 hours, 7 hours. Then you tell people you can’t even give people a glass of water to those who are waiting in those lines. Then you intimidate people by allowing partisan poll watchers to hover over people while they vote or one single person to

challenge the legitimacy of the right to vote of every single person who walks in that door, because that is another one of the bills that is being passed in State after State.

Election day can be easily manipulated, and there are even more ways to do it. One is—and this happens—you send out false information about what day is election day. You send out texts that say: So sorry you missed the election last Tuesday. Hope you make it to the polls next time.

So people think they missed the vote. They are, like, well, I thought it was next Tuesday, but I got this text, so it was last Tuesday.

You put out false information about where the voting location is. You proceed to make sure you change the location from the previous time so people get confused about where to go and vote in the wrong precinct, and then you make it illegal for their vote to be counted if they voted in the wrong precinct.

Election day is easy to manipulate. The antidote is early voting and vote-by-mail, and that is why the powerful are attacking early voting and vote-by-mail.

Now, my State, Oregon, was the first State to adopt vote-by-mail. It did so when we had a Republican house and a Republican senate in my State. Utah was a major early State to do vote-by-mail. It is considered a red State, a Republican State. This isn’t blue or red. This is American. This is our Constitution.

A second thing that the For the People Act does is stop billionaires from buying elections with dark money. You know, no matter if you poll Republicans, Independents, or Democrats, they all believe billionaires shouldn’t be able to buy elections with dark money. They know that if a billionaire can create the equivalent of a stadium sound system that drowns out the voice of the people, that that is just wrong.

Think about how Americans thought of those early debates in the town square. Everyone got their chance to stand up and have their say. You didn’t allow someone to erect a big sound system to drown out the people you didn’t want to speak. No. Give everyone—that is kind of the heart, isn’t it, of our First Amendment? Free speech. Everyone should be able to have their voice heard and not be drowned out by advertisements by anonymous billionaires buying elections.

The third thing this act does is it ends partisan gerrymandering. It creates independent Commissions—equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats, Independents—and therefore fights for the vision of equal representation.

Now, I have heard some folks salivating over increased gerrymandering, hoping to influence that other institution down the hall, saying: Hey, we have an extra 15 votes we shouldn’t have right now. Let’s get 25 with increased gerrymandering.

Well, it is just wrong to attack the principle of equal representation. You don’t have equal representation if the system is rigged so that politicians choose their voters rather than voters choosing their politicians.

The fourth thing the For the People Act does, it takes on ethics reforms and targets corruption. Again, whether you ask Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, they want the corruption out of our system. They want to ensure that public officials serve the public, not some private cause or serve themselves; that we are going to do the people’s business, not the business of some outside billionaire or some outside corporation.

These principles are widely supported across the country. The people sometimes say: Why don’t you have any Republican sponsors on this bill? Why don’t Republicans support this bill?

Across this Nation, Republicans overwhelmingly support these four principles in this bill. It is incredibly bipartisan. But not here in this Chamber because here is where the powerful speak, and the minority leader has said: I am going to lock down my Senators from supporting these efforts to defend our Constitution.

I would be embarrassed—I would be embarrassed if a leader of a caucus said it is going to lock me down to prevent me from defending the Constitution. I would be more than embarrassed; I would be alarmed. I would be outraged, as should every Member of this body across the aisle—should be outraged that they are being told they are locked down from defending the Constitution.

Next month, America will celebrate the 56th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the most powerful, significant advancement this Nation has ever made to realize that “we the people” vision of America.

Lyndon Johnson called August 6, 1965—the day he signed that law—“a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield.” He said: “The heart of the act is plain. Wherever, by clear and objective standards, States and counties use regulations, or laws, or tests to deny the right to vote, then they will be struck down.”

Well, that is our job, to do what President Johnson thought was accomplished when he signed the Voting Rights Act—to strike down regulations, laws, or tests designed to deny the right to vote to targeted groups of Americans across this country. So let’s do our job. Put this bill on the floor, and get it passed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING DETECTIVE GREG FERENCY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, Hoosiers have one less hero. On July 7, Detective Greg Ferency died in the line of duty in Terre Haute, IN. This is a tragic loss for his community and our State. Greg's life was dedicated to protecting people, pursuing justice, and preventing violence.

For 30 years, he served Terre Haute, the town where he was born and raised, as a police officer; during 10 of those, he doubled as a member of a Federal Bureau of Investigation task force.

Greg broke drug rings, battled the evil of human trafficking, and helped defend places of worship from terrorism. He was constantly on the frontlines in the fight against crime, leading and securing over 550 methamphetamine lab investigations. He was a teacher, too, training teammates, leading community forums, and authoring a book on drug enforcement.

A father of two, Greg was admired by his police peers and valued by the Federal agents he worked with. "You'll never meet a finer person," remembered a colleague. The hundreds of friends and fellow officers who paid tribute during his funeral bears witness to this.

We mourn his loss, we celebrate his life, and we keep his loved ones in our hearts and prayers. And we remember this: What we call bravery, the men and women who wear the badge simply call duty. They willingly stand in the way of threats to decency and order. They face grave dangers so other Americans do not have to.

Greg Ferency was one of these guardians. There are no words to adequately express our gratitude to him. I ask my colleagues, though, to join me in extending our sympathies to his family and pledging to never forget his sacrifice.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO MONIQUE LAMOREAUX-MORANDO AND JOCELYNE LAMOREAUX-DAVIDSON

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the newest recipients of the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, who are being honored in their hometown of Grand Forks today. They are Monique Lamoureux-Morando and Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson, better known as the Lamoureux Twins.

Before the rest of the world knew them, these identical twins made a name for themselves in North Dakota.

Those of us with children their same age who competed with them on soccer and hockey teams were well aware of their talents.

Monique and Jocelyne grew up in a hockey family. Their father was a goaltender for the University of North Dakota team, and they joined their four older brothers in learning the sport at an early age. Girls' hockey was not well developed in the 1990s, so they played on boys' teams, leading one of those teams to a State championship when they were 12 years old.

While playing hockey at Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep School in Minnesota, they were named to the U.S. Four Nations team as high school juniors in 2006. Three years later in 2009, the hockey world became more aware of these twin powerhouses from North Dakota. While playing collegiate hockey for the University of Minnesota, they made the World Championship team that won the Gold Medal in Finland. They then transferred to the University of North Dakota to finish their college hockey careers and that December were named to the 2010 Olympic team.

They have played on three Winter Olympics women's hockey teams, the first two in Vancouver, Canada, in 2010 and Sochi, Russia, in 2014, where the U.S. team won Silver Medals against Canada. It was on February 18, 2018, in PyeongChang, South Korea, when the sisters were at the center of what is considered one of the greatest moments in U.S. Olympic history.

With 21 seconds remaining in regulation play, Monique scored the tying goal—again against the Canadian women. Jocelyn then sealed the win in the sixth round of the tie-breaking shootout. Her now famous "Oops, I did it again" shot scored the goal and brought the women's Olympic Gold Medal home to the United States for the first time in 20 years.

After 14 years as members of Team USA hockey, in February they retired from their golden careers. While on Team USA, Monique skated in 135 games and scored 143 points, and Jocelyne skated in 137 games and scored 138 points. From 2009 to 2018, they played in every major International Ice Hockey Federation event. They have brought home an impressive number of medals, including one Olympic Gold, two Olympic Silver, six World Championship Gold and one World Championship Silver. They made history in North Dakota in 2014 for being the first State athletes to win multiple Olympic medals.

The Lamoureux Twins have been widely praised by teammates and coaches for their perseverance and adaptability. Often noted when describing them are their work ethic, focus, grit, determination, attention to detail, class, respect, and integrity. They have been called humble, tough, and generous. They have a clear sense of right and wrong and are always challenging each other to be better. One

sportswriter described the Lamoureux Twins as "having work ethics that would put a combustion engine to shame."

These young women have been witness to and instrumental in the growth of women's hockey on and off the ice. Today, with women's hockey much more prominent than it was 20 years ago, they sponsor and conduct hockey camps to better train girls and women players. In 2017, they were among those on the U.S. national team who threatened a boycott before the Women's World Championship to highlight the need for better financial support and benefits for women team players.

Today, Monique and Jocelyne live in Grand Forks with their husbands and young families. They published a book, "Dare to Make History," earlier this year, and they have established a charitable foundation to support underprivileged children through education and by promoting gender equality and internet access for low income families.

The North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award was established in 1961. It recognizes North Dakotans who have been influenced by the State in achieving national recognition in their fields of endeavor, thereby reflecting credit and honor upon North Dakota and its citizens. It was named after President Theodore Roosevelt, who credited his time living in North Dakota for influencing his success later in life. We can only imagine what his reaction would be to the accomplishments of Monique and Jocelyne. As only the 45th and 46th recipients, at age 32, they are the youngest to be honored with this highest award given by the State, and they have a lifetime ahead of themselves for even more impressive achievements.

Mr. President, on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota, I congratulate Monique Lamoureux-Morando and Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson on receiving the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award today. You are true champions.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RON PISANESCHI

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, I congratulate Ron Pisaneschi on his remarkable more than 35-year career with Idaho Public Television.

Ron is retiring after serving as Idaho Public Television's general manager since August 2013. He joined Idaho Public Television in 1985 and served in numerous positions for the station prior to his managerial role. This includes serving as director of content, director of programming, director of public information, and director of marketing and development. We understand under his leadership of the station, Idaho Public Television has been one of the most watched and best supported Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, stations